

SENIOR UPDATE



STATE SENATOR

John Pappageorge

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Dear Friend:

Our state's natural beauty, bountiful resources and resilient, hardworking people make Michigan a truly special place to live.

In the Michigan Senate, we are working to right our economic ship and get the cost of government under control so Michigan is once again thriving, and our children and grandchildren can prosper and enjoy life in the state we love.

Along with information on government reform, I want to share updates on several other issues that may be of interest, including health care and consumer protection. Please do not hesitate to call me toll-free at **877.SEN.13TH** or visit my website at **www.SenatorJohnPappageorge.com** if you would like further information on any of these topics.

It is an honor to serve you in the Michigan Senate. I will continue to work hard on your behalf and hope you will call on me if you have any questions or concerns or need assistance with any state matter.

Best wishes for health and happiness!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Pappageorge".

John Pappageorge
State Senator



Pappageorge supports new law to provide flu shots to hospital patients

Older adults, young children, and people with specific health conditions (such as asthma, diabetes and heart disease) are at high risk for serious flu complications.

I supported Senate legislation to make sure all hospitalized senior citizens and other “at-risk” patients are offered the influenza vaccination.

Public Act 23 of 2010 (Senate Bill 722) helps protect vulnerable seniors during flu season, which runs from October to March.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, on average each year 5 to 20 percent of the United States population comes down with the flu; more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu complications; and about 36,000 people die from the flu.



Pappageorge: Protect seniors from utility shutoff

New laws that took effect earlier this year will help protect Michigan residents, especially seniors and the disabled, from utility shut-offs.

Public Acts 171-174 of 2009 (Senate Bills 554 and 557; House Bills 4658 and 4673) make sure that municipal utilities give fair notice to residents before their service is stopped.

Utilities are also required to check whether a customer is a senior citizen or if someone in the household has a medical emergency that would be life threatening if the power was interrupted.

The legislation was spurred by the death of an elderly Bay City man last year after his power was shut off.

If you need help paying your energy bills, go to www.dleg.state.mi.us/mpsc/winterwise/energy_assistance.htm to access the Michigan Energy Assistance Directory.

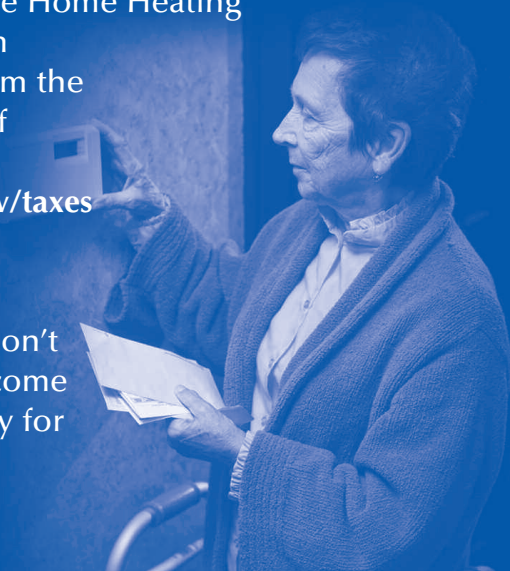
Don't forget the home heating credit

Mark your calendar! Eligible seniors have until September 30, 2010 to file for a 2009 home heating credit.

To be eligible, seniors must meet income guidelines and own or rent the home where they live. Your residence includes rented apartments and mobile homes.

You can obtain the Home Heating Credit Claim form (MI-1040CR-7) from the Michigan Dept. of Treasury at www.michigan.gov/taxes or by calling 1-800-827-4000.

Remember, you don't have to file an income tax return to apply for this credit.



Pappageorge calls 2010 the “Year of the Reform”

I know many seniors live on fixed incomes and must watch every household expense.

As the steward of your tax dollars, we are doing the same with the state budget. That means not only holding the line on government spending, but seeing to it that government makes do with less.

Sensible reforms that could save the state \$2 billion are at the top of our Senate agenda this year. They cover areas such as:

- Public employee pay and health care
- Local police and fire protection
- K-12 school spending
- Medicaid spending
- Government efficiency

The plan builds on reforms we have already approved to streamline government services and save money.



Find more information on the Senate Republican reforms at www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/reforms.

Pappageorge supports right to independent health care

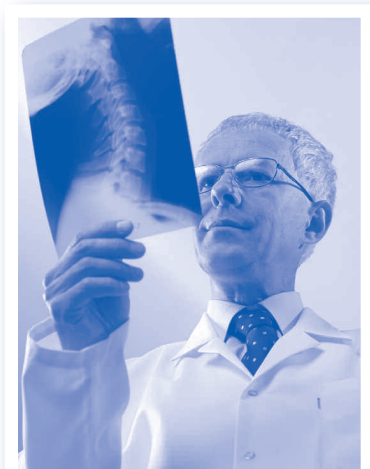
Do you believe you should have the freedom to provide for your own health care?

I recently supported a Senate measure that would exempt citizens from having to participate in the federal government health care plan, if they choose.

Senate Joint Resolution K would allow Michigan residents to vote on a constitutional amendment that affirms “every person has a right to provide for his or her own health care.”

The resolution is about preserving freedom in making our own health care decisions.

To be placed on the ballot, the resolution must first be approved by two-thirds of the members of the Michigan Senate and House.



Pappageorge backs military voter bills

It's only right that our military men and women overseas are able to participate in the democratic process they are serving to protect.

New laws will help make sure votes cast by our overseas military can be counted in a timely manner.

Up to now, many of our military have been unable to return ballots in time when serving in places like Iraq or Afghanistan.

Public Acts 43-44 and 50-51 allow U.S. military personnel stationed outside the country and voters living overseas, who have filed an application for an absentee ballot, to receive an electronic ballot at least 45 days before an election. The ballot can be downloaded, filled out and mailed back to the clerk.

These measures update the process so the votes of our freedom fighters can be counted.



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Stay alert against fraud

Senior citizens are often targeted by prize and sweepstakes scams. In fact, according the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, 60 percent of the victims of this type of fraud are age 60 and older.

To avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud of any kind, remember these practical tips:

- If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is.
- Don't be pressured into making an immediate decision, whether entering a contest, making a purchase, or giving a donation.
- Don't give out your Social Security, credit card or checking account numbers to companies or people you don't know.



CLIP & SAVE

Senator John Pappageorge Senior Hotlines

Here is a list of toll-free numbers to call (at no charge) for facts on a variety of subjects of interest to seniors and their families.

Alzheimer's Association1-800-272-3900
American Cancer Society1-800-227-2345
American Council of the Blind1-800-424-8666
American Diabetes Association1-800-342-2383
Arthritis Foundation1-800-283-7800
Auto Repair Complaints1-800-292-4204
Cancer Information Service1-800-422-6237
Consumer Protection Agency1-877-765-8388
Do Not Call List (Sign Up).....1-888-382-1222
Elder Abuse Helpline1-800-996-6228
Energy Assistance1-800-292-5650
Hospice1-800-331-1620
Legal Hotline for Seniors1-800-347-5297
MDOT Pothole Hot Line1-888-296-4546

Medicare Appeals (Hospital Discharge)..1-800-365-5899
Medicare Inquiry1-800-633-4227
Medicare/Medicaid Assist. Program1-800-803-7174
Michigan Parkinson's Foundation ..1-800-852-9781
Michigan Long Term Care
Ombudsman Program1-866-485-9393
Patient Abuse & Healthcare Fraud ..1-800-242-2873
Social Security1-800-772-1213
Taxpayer Assistance (State)1-800-827-4000
Taxpayer Information (Federal)1-800-829-1040
Utilities (Public Service Commission)1-800-292-9555
Veterans' Information & Assistance..1-800-827-1000

Senator John Pappageorge1-888-962-6275

Note: numbers are subject to change.